

# NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust, Valles Caldera National Preserve  
USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest  
New Mexico State Game & Fish  
New Mexico State Parks



**For Immediate Release:**  
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June 29, 2011

## **Public Lands within and around Santa Fe National Forest to close tomorrow** ***Coyote and Cuba Ranger Districts North of NM 96 and West of NM 550 will remain open***

**(SANTA FE, NM)**—Due to extreme fire conditions, Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve will close the majority of the Forest and Preserve to all public access starting Thursday, June 30, 2011. In addition, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish properties/recreation sites within Pecos Canyon will be closed. These recreation sites include: Bert Clancey, Terrero, Jamie Koch, Mora River and Monastery Lake. New Mexico State Parks will also be closing Hyde Memorial, Fenton Lake and Morphy Lake State Parks.

Under Stage III fire restrictions, all areas of the Forest are restricted/off-limits to all use and access unless specifically listed as open. National Forest System Lands located north of NM 96 will remain open under Stage II Restrictions. Open areas north of NM 96 include portions of the Coyote Ranger District and the northern part of the Cuba Ranger District. Forest lands west of Highway 550 will also remain open.

Forest Service Law Enforcement and staff will be patrolling forest roads and trails. Signs will be placed along highways and flyers will be posted throughout communities to remind the public that the Forest and Preserve except those areas above NM 96 and west of NM 550 are closed. All campgrounds, day use picnic areas, and trails within the Jemez Ranger District, Espanola Ranger District, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, Cuba Ranger District and the Valles Caldera National Preserve are closed. Property owners and their guests will continue to have access to private lands within the Forest.

The Forest and Preserve will reopen to the public when sufficient precipitation is received to adequately reduce extremely dry conditions and reduce the risk of wildfire to a manageable level.

Stage II Fire Restrictions for National Forest System Land North of NM 96 and West of 550 will remain in effect.

### **Stage II Fire Restrictions include:**

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, wood or stove fire. Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, and heating devices are not allowed anywhere.
2. Using an explosive.
3. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
4. Possessing, discharging or using any type of firework or pyrotechnic device.
5. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine.

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6. Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.
7. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway and except for parking overnight in Forest Service developed campgrounds and trailheads that are open.

To report a fire call (505) 458-5600 or dial 911. For more information on current fire restrictions on public lands in New Mexico and Arizona, call 1-877-864-6985. This is a toll-free hotline sponsored by natural resource agencies in the Southwest. For more information about the Forest Closure Order, please contact the Supervisor's Office at (505) 438-5300.

Additional fire information can be obtained by visiting <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire> or <http://www.nmfireinfo.com/>.

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